



# Forest Plan Revision Phase 1: Assessment

Updated 6/25/2017



## Draft Assessment Topics

## 15 ASSESSMENT TOPICS AND THE DRAFT ASSESSMENT REPORT

The 2012 Planning Rule identifies 15 required Assessment topics that are reviewed within the draft Assessment Report (36 CFR 219.6).

Assessment Number and Topic	Topic Title Used in the Report
1. Terrestrial ecosystems, aquatic ecosystems, and watersheds	TERRESTRIAL AND AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS—Watersheds and Water, Riparian, Air, Soil
2. Air, soil, and water resources and quality	
3. System drivers, including dominant ecological processes, disturbance regimes, and stressors, such as natural succession, wildland fire, invasive species, and climate change; and the ability of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems on the plan area to adapt to change	Stressors and Drivers
4. Baseline assessment of carbon stocks	Carbon Stocks
5. Threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, and potential species of conservation concern present in the plan area	At-risk Species
6. Social, cultural, and economic conditions	Forest Contributions to Cultural, Social, and Economic Conditions and Benefits People Obtain from the Forest
7. Benefits people obtain from the planning area (ecosystem services)	
8. Multiple uses and their contributions to local, regional, and national economies	
9. Recreation settings, opportunities and access, and scenic character	Recreation Settings, Opportunities, Access, and Scenic Character
10. Renewable and nonrenewable energy and mineral resources	Mineral Resources and Renewable and Nonrenewable Energy
11. Infrastructure (recreational facilities and transportation and utility corridors)	Infrastructure - Transportation, Utility Corridors, Facilities
12. Areas of tribal importance	Areas of Tribal Importance
13. Cultural and historic resources and uses	Cultural and Historical Resources and Uses
14. Land status and ownership, use, and access patterns	Land Ownership, Status, and Use Patterns
15. Existing designated areas located in the plan area including wilderness and wild and scenic rivers and potential need and opportunity for additional designated areas.	Wilderness and Other Designated Areas

## KEY POINTS

- ⇒ This is NOT a decisional document
- ⇒ Written during the Fall of 2016
- ⇒ Used best available scientific information (BASI) and public input collected from 14 public meetings and 2 cooperating agency meetings held during 2016 to inform its development

## PLANNING FRAMEWORK AND THE ASSESSMENT

The 2012 Planning Rule describes the planning framework as an iterative process that includes: 1) Assessment, 2) Developing, amending or revising a plan, and 3) Monitoring. These three phases are complementary and may overlap. [36 CFR 219..5]

(1) **Assessment.** Assessments rapidly evaluate existing information about relevant ecological, economic, and social conditions, trends, and the land management plan within the context of the broader landscape. The responsible official shall consider and evaluate existing and possible future conditions and trends of the plan area, and assess the sustainability of social, economic, and ecological systems within the plan area, in the context of the broader landscape (§ 219.6).

(2)**Plan development, plan amendment, or plan revision.** (i) The process for developing or revising a plan includes: Assessment, preliminary identification of the need to change the plan based on the assessment, development of a proposed plan, consideration of the environmental effects of the proposal, providing an opportunity to comment on the proposed plan, providing an opportunity to object before the proposal is approved, and, finally, approval of the plan or plan revision. A new plan or plan revision requires preparation of an environmental impact statement. (ii) The process for amending a plan includes: Preliminary identification of the need to change the plan, development of a proposed amendment, consideration of the environmental effects of the proposal, providing an opportunity to comment on the proposed amendment, providing an opportunity to object before the proposal is approved, and, finally, approval of the plan amendment. The appropriate NEPA documentation for an amendment may be an environmental impact statement, an environmental assessment, or a categorical exclusion, depending upon the scope and scale of the amendment and its likely effects.

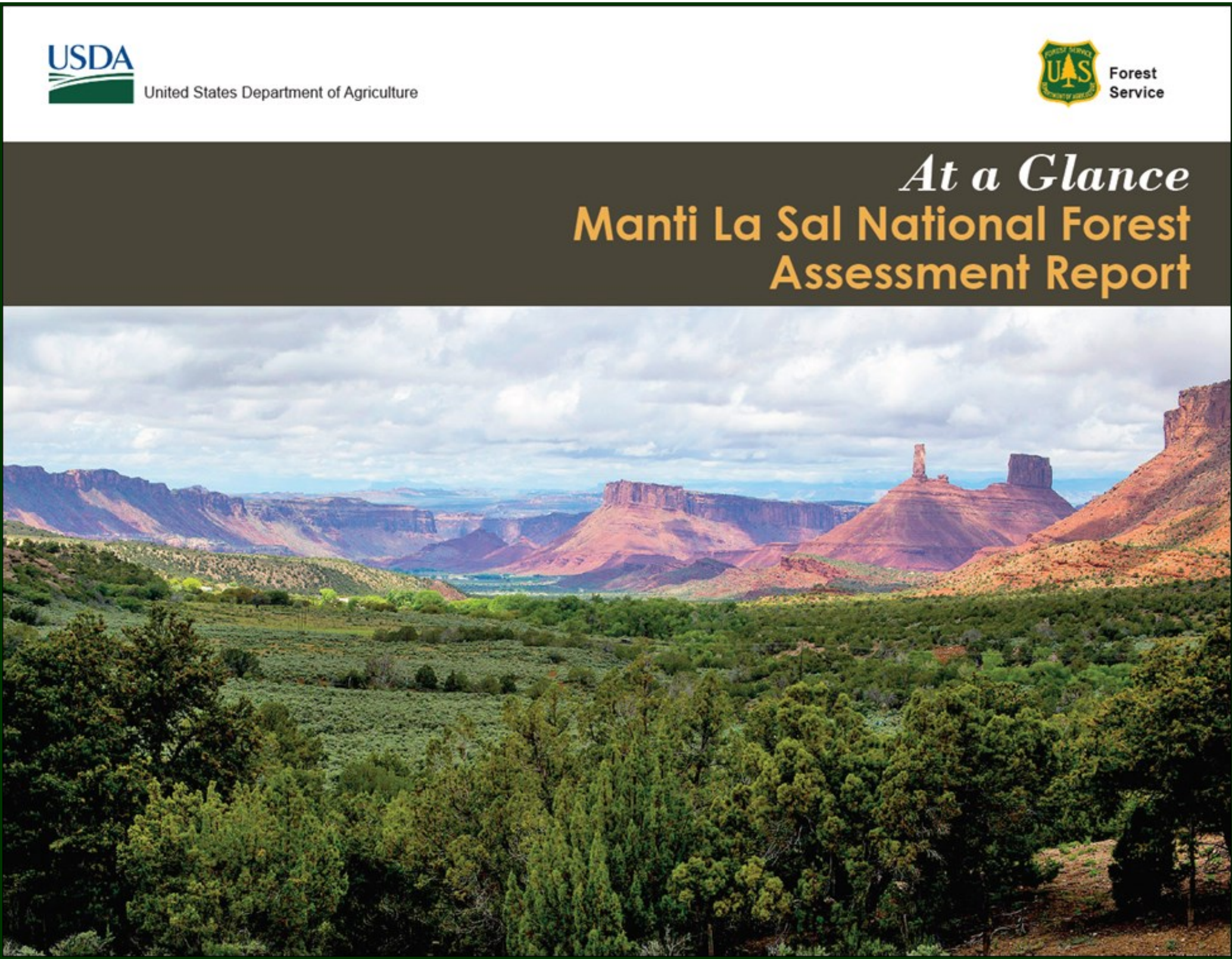
(3) **Monitoring.** Monitoring is continuous and provides feedback for the planning cycle by testing relevant assumptions, tracking relevant conditions over time, and measuring management effectiveness (§ 219.12). The monitoring program includes plan level and broader-scale monitoring. The plan-level monitoring program is informed by the assessment phase; developed during plan development, plan amendment, or plan revision; and implemented after plan decision. The regional forester develops broader-scale monitoring strategies. Biennial monitoring evaluation reports document whether a change to the plan or change to the monitoring program is warranted based on new information, whether a new assessment may be needed, or whether there is no need for change at that time.

## DRAFT ASSESSMENT REPORT

The draft Assessment Report is ready for public review. Starting June 22, 2017 there will be a 30-day comment period. This document will help inform the preliminary need to change document from the current 1986 Forest Plan. This document is available online at our Forest's Planning website.

## AT-A-GLANCE ASSESSMENT PRIMER

We realize that not everyone will want to read the entire draft Assessment document but that doesn't mean you aren't interested in what it says. For anyone interested in a summarized introduction to our draft Assessment Report, we have created our 'At-A-Glance' Assessment primer. This document includes highlights from our draft Assessment Report. This document is available on our Planning website.



For updates on our Plan Revision effort, visit our StoryMap website (<http://bit.do/manti-lasalplanrevision>) or Planning page (<http://bit.do/mlsnfplanningpage>). You can also contact the Plan Revision Team with questions at [mlnfplanrevision@fs.fed.us](mailto:mlnfplanrevision@fs.fed.us); by phone at 435-636-3508; or via postal mail at 599 West Price River Drive, Price, Utah 84501.

## Draft Assessment Report

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

### Public Involvement to Date

Public comments regarding the development of the draft Assessment report were solicited in the Fall of 2016 through public meetings, open houses, on-line and mail-in comment forms. A total of 8 open house events were held in September 2016 and 2 public workshops were held in November 2016 with a total of 242 participants at all 10 events. Public information and feedback was solicited at all events.

Summary reports are available online for each round of public open house events and workshops.

### 30-Day Comment Period

Starting June 22, 2017 there will be a 30-day public comment period. We will be using our online commenting tool as our primary submittal form. However, we will continue to accept comments submitted via email, postal mail, and hard copies submitted to the District and Supervisors Offices.

A 'How to Comment' form can be found on our Planning website.

## NEXT STEPS

### Draft Assessment Report Revision

Once all comments have been submitted and reviewed, any necessary changes will be made to the draft Report and/or information the development of the revised Forest Plan. This updated Assessment Report will then be one of three documents released to the public during the official 60-day Scoping Period. The scooping period is expected to begin during November 2017. A notice of intent will be shared prior to the beginning of this process.

### Draft Preliminary Need to Change Document

Information contained within the Assessment Report will inform the development of our Draft Preliminary Need to Change Document as identified in the 2012 Planning Rule.